

Report **Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial**

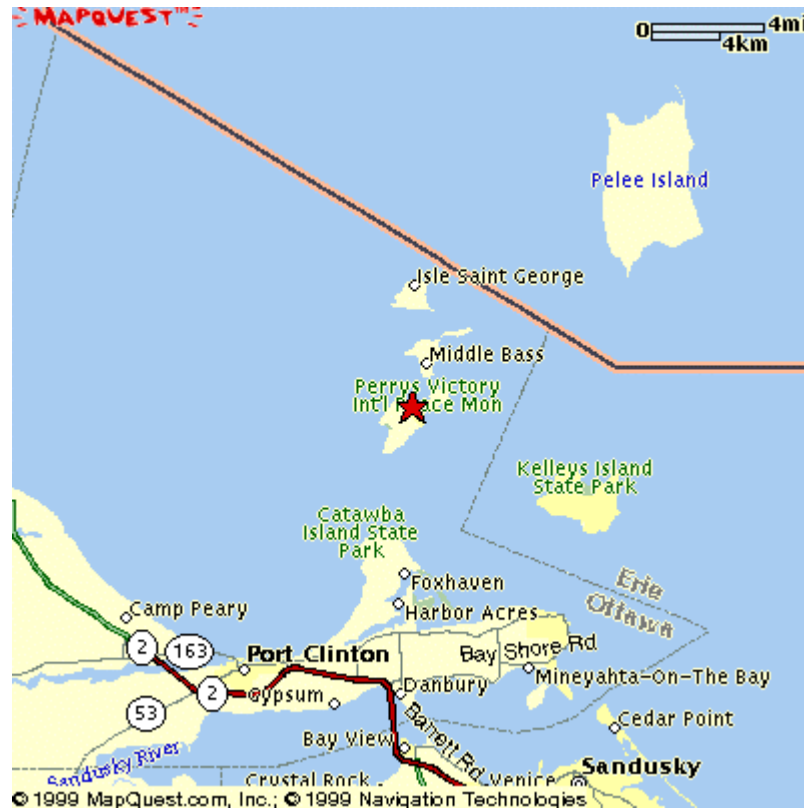
■ **1.0 Site Description**

Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial was built between 1912 and 1915 as a Monument to Commodore Perry’s victory in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. The Monument also serves to “inculcate the lessons of international peace by arbitration and disarmament.” It was established as a unit of the NPS by presidential proclamation on June 2, 1936.

The site occupies about 25 acres of the 1,800 acres on South Bass Island. As shown in Figure 1, the island is located about three miles off mainland coast of Ohio in Lake Erie. The Monument is adjacent to the business district of Put-in-Bay, Ohio. The island and adjacent areas of the mainland are tourist- and resort-oriented. Monument staff is housed on the island in government housing.

The Monument, at 352 feet in height, is the dominant landmark on the island. It is open for visitors between April and October of each year. The island is the destination rather than the Monument; visitors come to the Monument “by accident.” The bulk of site visitors are generally not aware of the Monument prior to visiting the island, but come to the Monument out of curiosity due to its sheer size. There is a large observation deck at the top of the Monument that is known to have “spectacular” views of Lake Erie, Canada, Ohio, and Michigan; repeat visitors (approximately one-half of total) tend to come for this feature.

Site visitors reflect characteristics of the overall tourist profile on South Bass Island. The average age of island and Monument visitors is between 28 and 40. The island atmosphere was described as rather festive, and is generally perceived as not conducive to family visitation. Most Monument visitors arrive as “couples” and small groups.

Figure 1. Location of Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial

■ 2.0 Existing ATS

During the winter, South Bass Island can only be accessed by commercial air service to Sandusky and Port Clinton. Air service is currently priced at \$39 roundtrip with several flights per day. During warmer weather, air service is supplemented with varying levels of passenger and car ferry services that are privately owned and operated.

A passenger and car ferry runs from April to late November between Catawba Island and South Bass Island. The ferry docks about two miles from the Monument. The ferry can accommodate about 30 vehicles and additional passengers. During peak times, it runs on a 30-minute headway, with service dropping to six round-trips per day in shoulder times. During peak tourist season, same-day auto trips on and off the island are restricted. The one-way fare is \$10 per vehicle and \$5.00 per person.

A passenger-only catamaran operates from May to October between Port Clinton and Put-in-Bay. The catamaran has a capacity of about 400 passengers, and docks in the downtown area within walking distance of the Monument. During peak times, it runs on a 45-minute headway, with service dropping to about two-hour headways (and weekend-only service) during shoulder periods. The one-way fare varies between \$8.50 and \$10.00 per person based on demand.

Both the ferry and catamaran service were characterized as financial successes. Indeed, during peak times, passengers may have a delay of one to two ferries. Delays for car-ferry service off the island can be up to three hours during peak times. These delays were not described as a major problem since they tend to be limited to late Sunday afternoon during the peak tourist season.

A privately operated bus service provides access between the ferry terminal and downtown area. Most ferry riders use this service. The downtown bus stop is within easy walking distance of the Monument. A private vendor also operates a tourist tram around the island during tourist season, including a stop near the Monument. The tram costs between \$8.00 and \$10 for a tour, with passengers having on-and-off privileges over a specified time period. The island has privately operated year-round taxi service with a flat rate of \$2.00 per trip anywhere on the island.

Island circulation consists of a broad mixture of taxis, buses, golf carts, private autos, bicycles, roller bladers, and pedestrians. Private auto usage tends to be low on the island, and as an access mode to the Monument. The predominate access modes for the Monument are walking, golf carts, and taxi service. The Monument has a 20-space parking lot that was described as small and inadequate; problems arise in trying to accommodate the relatively large number of site visitors that arrive by golf cart. Within the next few years, a new visitor center for the Monument will be built at the edge of the downtown area. This new visitor center will have a larger parking area, although discussions are still underway regarding the exact size and usage restrictions of this new parking area.

■ 3.0 ATS Needs

Current management at Perry’s Victory does not foresee any near-term or long-term need for public funds to build or maintain alternative transportation systems (ATS) or services. The Monument is located near the downtown and other tourist areas on the island; this proximity facilitates easy pedestrian travel between these areas. The island also has a wide range of private sector ATS that are financially successful and well operated. These services meet the needs of current Monument visitors and, based on experience, are expected to be responsive to the visitor needs in both the near term and long term.

■ 4.0 Basis of ATS Needs

Visitors currently have a wide range of viable options for using alternative transportation modes for site access, island circulation, and island access from the mainland. Based on many years of operating experience, it is expected that private vendor air and ferry service to the island, as well as on-island bus and taxi service, will continue to be financially successful, with service levels that are responsive to needs of Monument visitors. Current and projected levels of peak-period delay are considered manageable; most visitors do not mind the delay since they are able to use the time to further enjoy island festivities.

Island circulation is currently provided by a wide range privately operated ATS. These systems provide frequent and low-cost service for both island and Monument visitors. The island’s compactness and layout makes walking a viable and preferred access mode for a majority of Monument visitors.

Since the Monument is open only from April to October, the lack of ferry service during the winter months does not create a problem. Also, there are currently no plans to expand Monument operations to the winter months.

■ 5.0 Persons Interviewed

Phyllis Ewing, Superintendent, Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial